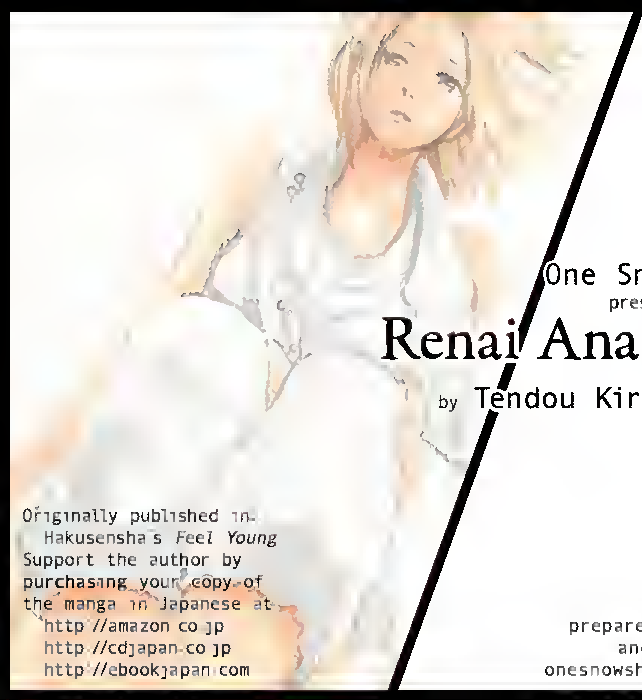

One Snowshoe
presents

Renai Anagram

by Tendou Kirin

Originally published in
Hakusensha's *Feel Young*
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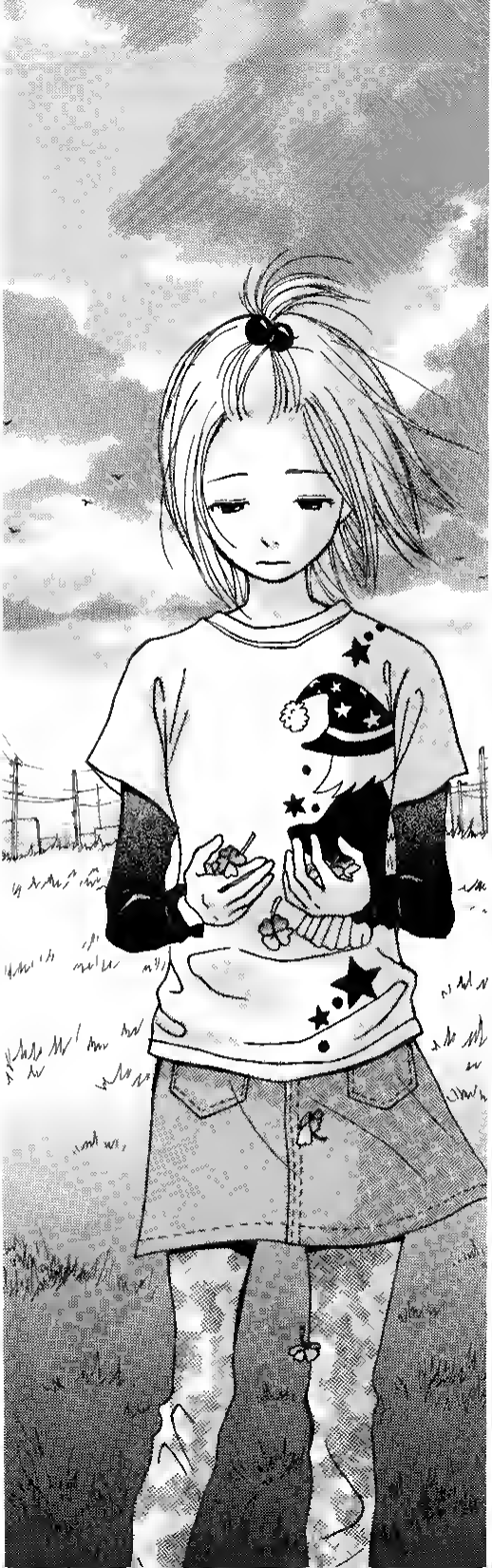
Chapter 3

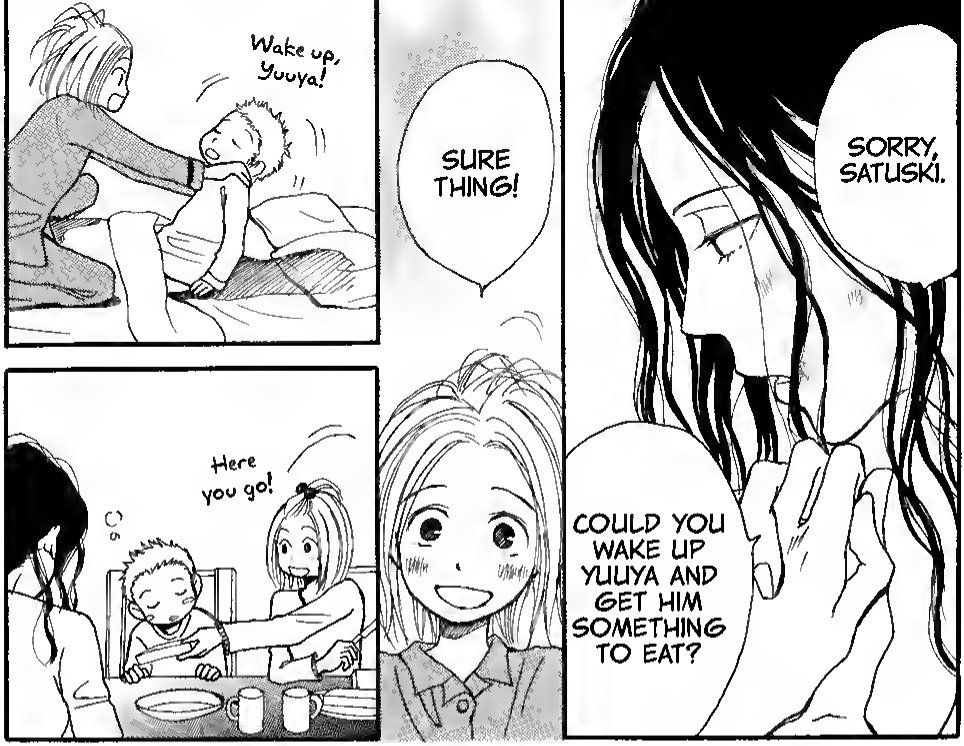


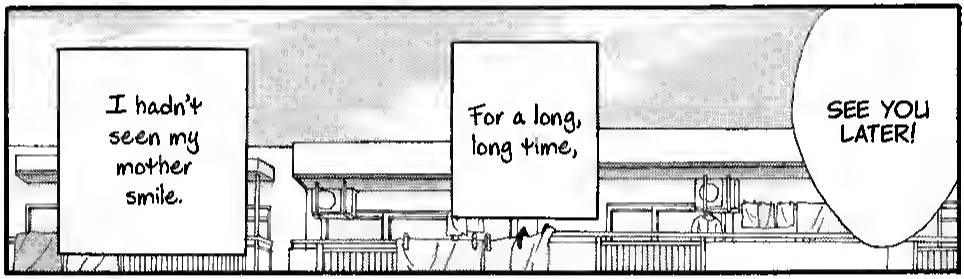
I couldn't recognize where I even was.
Sometimes, there were days
WAAH
ガタ
WAAAH
IT AIN'T NONE OF YOUR GOD DAMN BUSINESS
WHAT WOMAN I SPEND MY FUCKING MONEY ON!!
WAAH
I- I'LL KILL YOU!
AND THEN I'LL DIE, TOO!

WAAAH
WAAAH
WAAAH
WAAAH
Days I couldn't remember a time when I was ever happy,
When the night was filled with terror,
WAAH

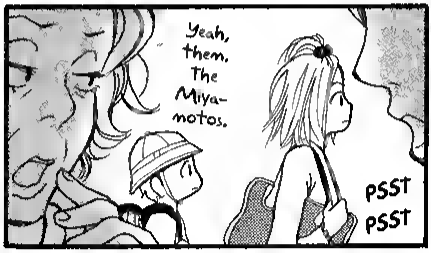
And all I could do
Was pray for the arrival
Of the following morning.

チュン…
チュン
むぐ…
I'm alive...
パチ
ガラッ
MOM!
GOOD MORN...

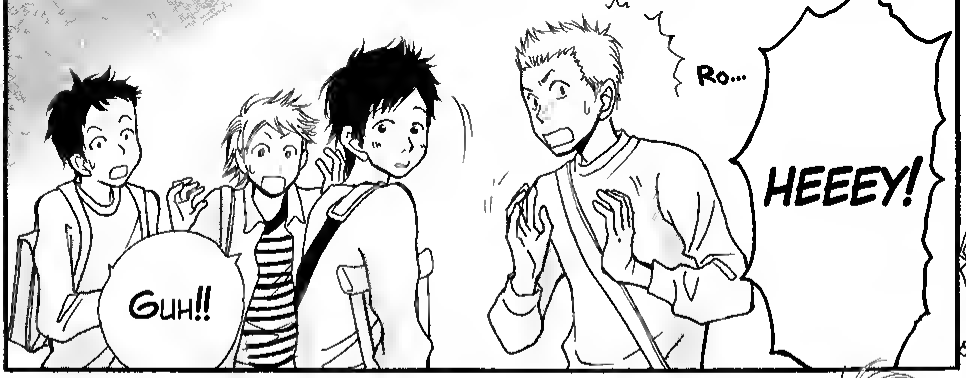

Wake up, Yuuya!
SURE THING!
SORRY, SATUSKI.
COULD YOU WAKE UP YUUYA AND GET HIM SOMETHING TO EAT?
Here you go!

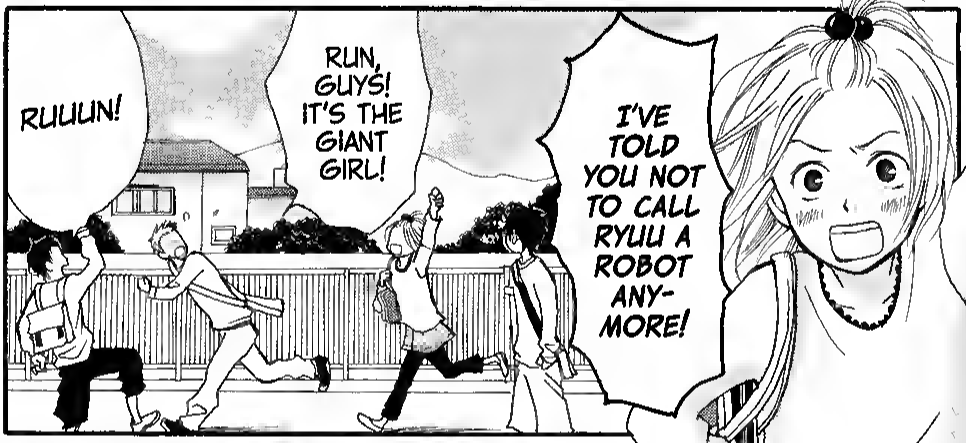

I hadn't seen my mother smile.
For a long, long time,
SEE YOU LATER!

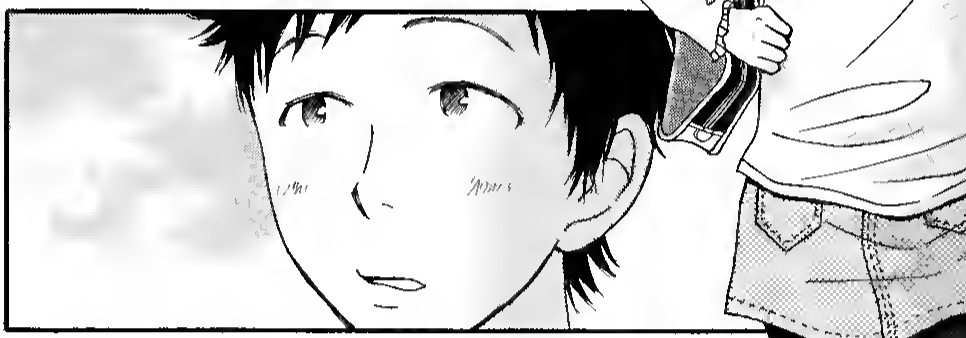
Rooobo!
Rooobo!
Rooobo!

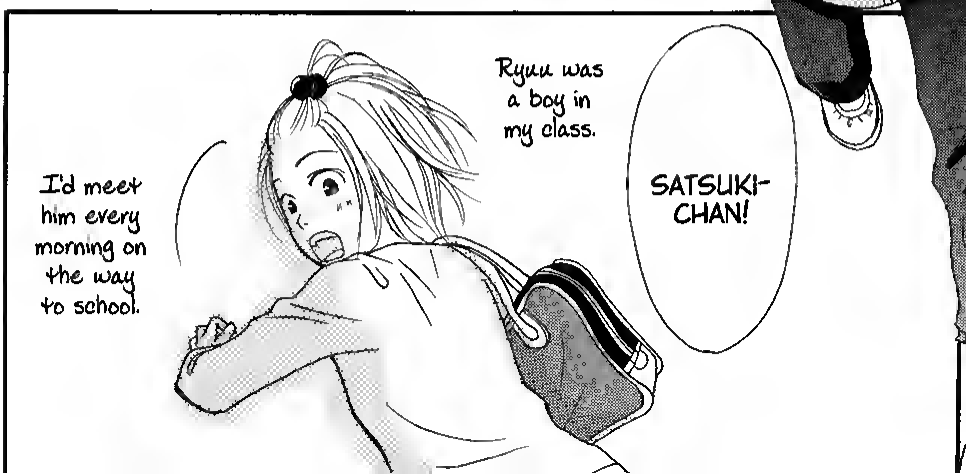

Yeah, them. The Miya-motos.
PSST
PSST

I KNOW! SO SCARY!
THEY HAD ANOTHER HUGE FIGHT LAST NIGHT.
PSST
PSST

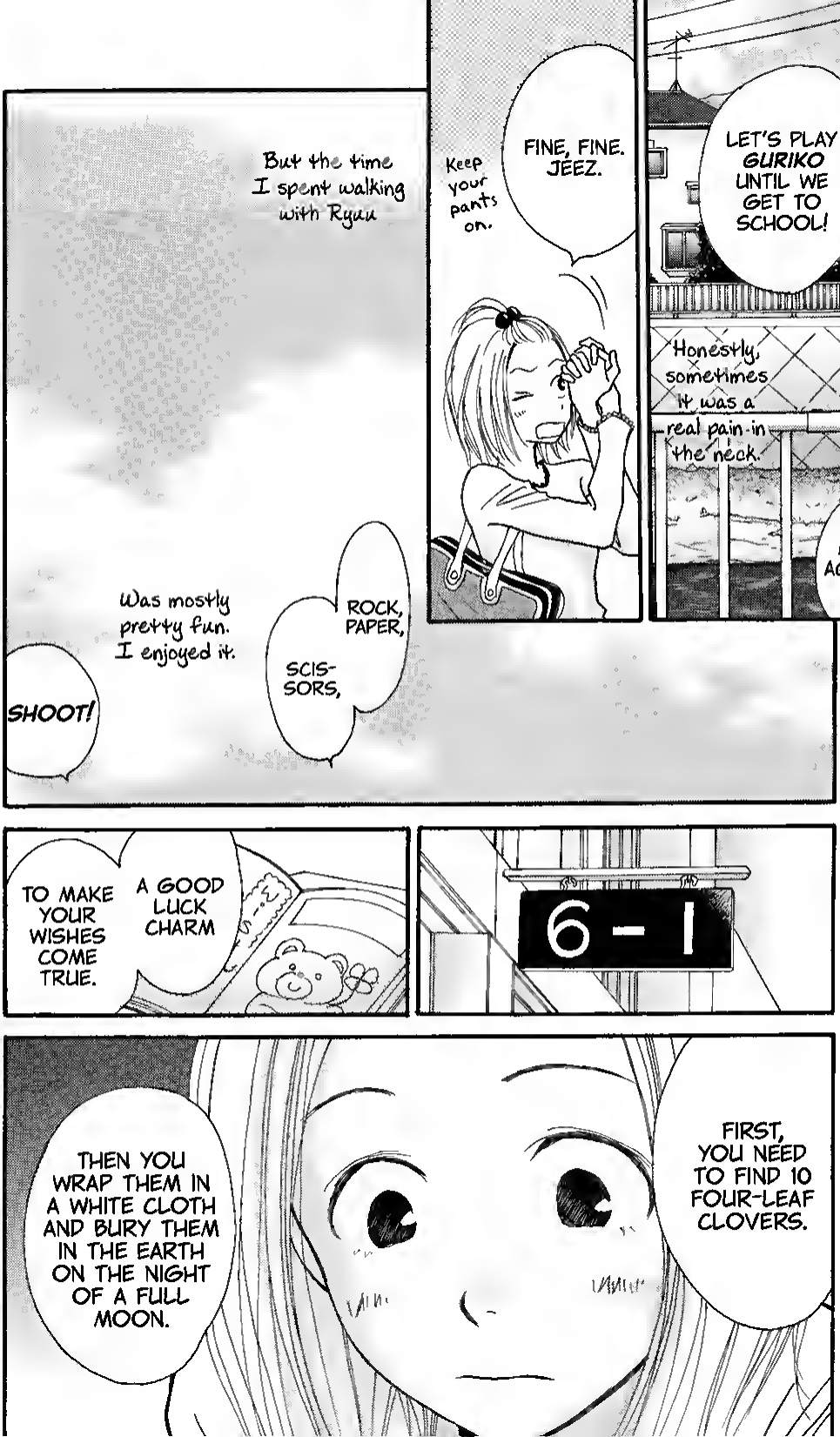

Ro...
HEEEY!
GUH!!

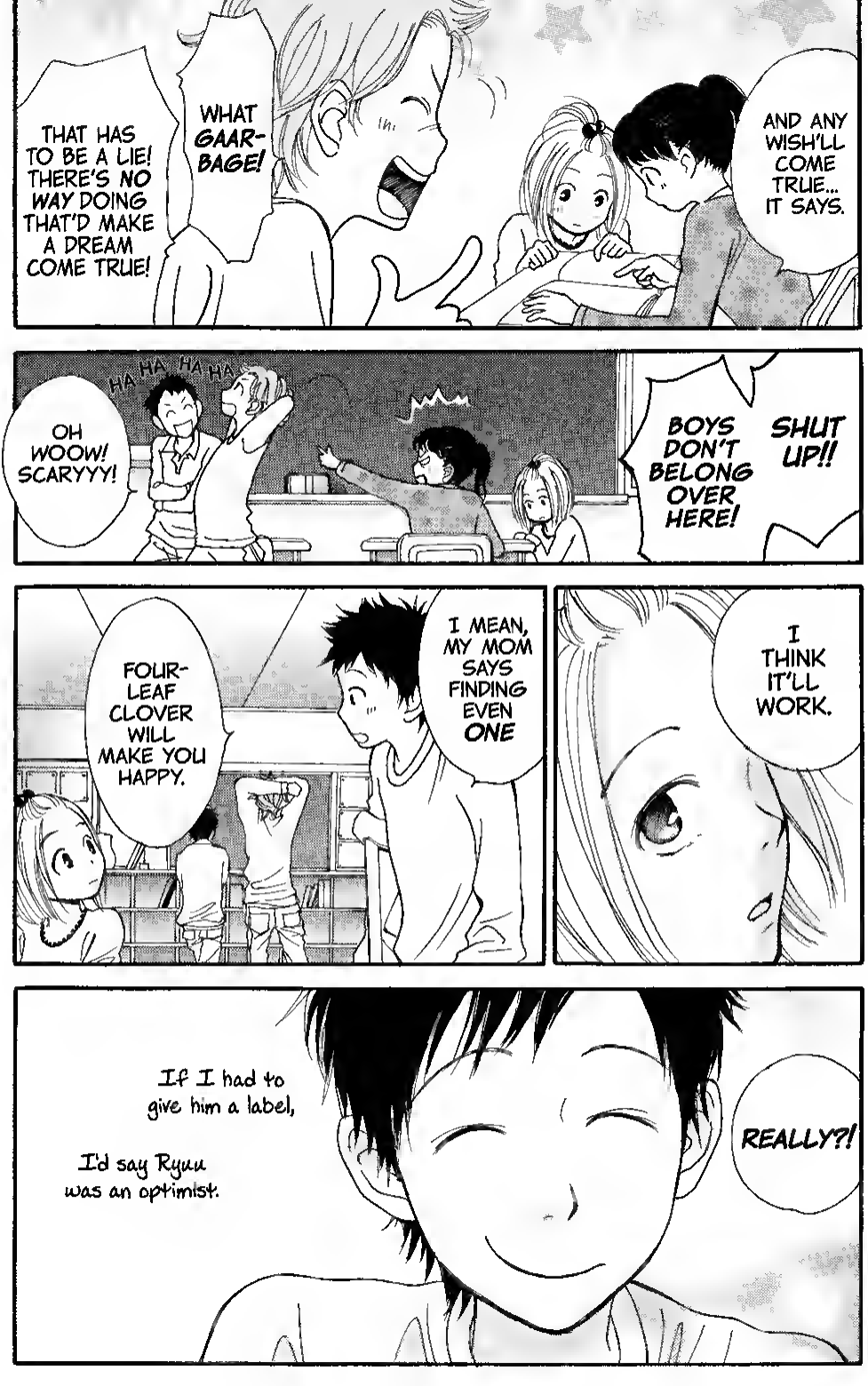

RUUUN!
RUN, GUYS! IT'S THE GIANT GIRL!
I'VE TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL RYUU A ROBOT ANY-MORE!

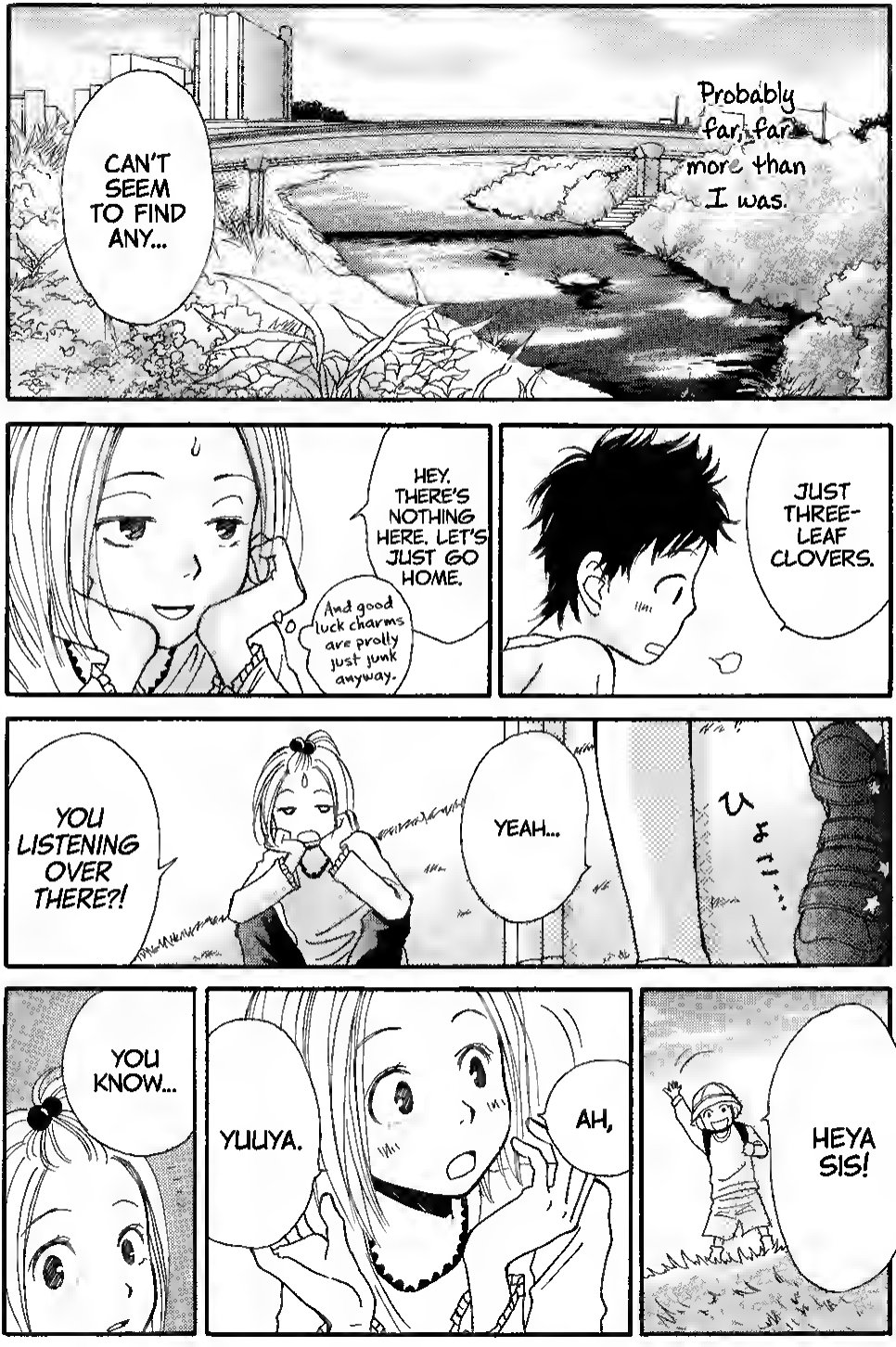


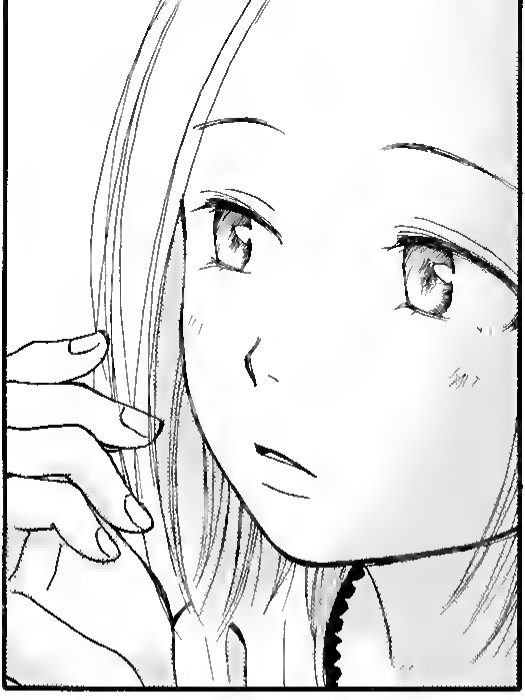

SATSUKI-CHAN!
Ryuu was a boy in my class.
I'd meet him every morning on the way to school.

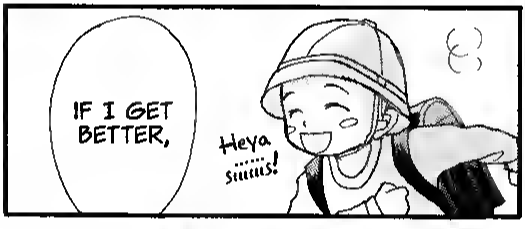
AH
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
His nick-name-was Chuckles.
EH...
FORGET ABOUT IT. LET'S GET TO SCHOOL.
Siiiii!
I AM REALLY GLAD YOU DROVE THEM OFF THOUGH.
HA
HA
HA
HA
Because he would always laugh and smile.
He said he had a problem with his brain where he couldn't move the left half of his body.
When Ryuu laughed, only the right side of his mouth would rise.
HA
HA
HA
HA
Don't look down on us Southies!
IF I SEE THEM NORTH ELEMENTARY BRATS AGAIN, I'LL SEND 'EM STRAIGHT TO HELL.
Hend 'em to sell!


LET'S PLAY GURIKO UNTIL WE GET TO SCHOOL!
Honestly, sometimes it was a real pain in the neck.
EH?! AGAIN?!
FINE, FINE. JEEZ.
Keep your pants on.
But the time I spent walking with Ryuu
ROCK, PAPER, SCIS-SORS,
SHOOT!
Was mostly pretty fun. I enjoyed it.
6 - 1
A GOOD LUCK CHARM
TO MAKE YOUR WISHES COME TRUE.
FIRST, YOU NEED TO FIND 10 FOUR-LEAF CLOVERS.
THEN YOU WRAP THEM IN A WHITE CLOTH AND BURY THEM IN THE EARTH ON THE NIGHT OF A FULL MOON.

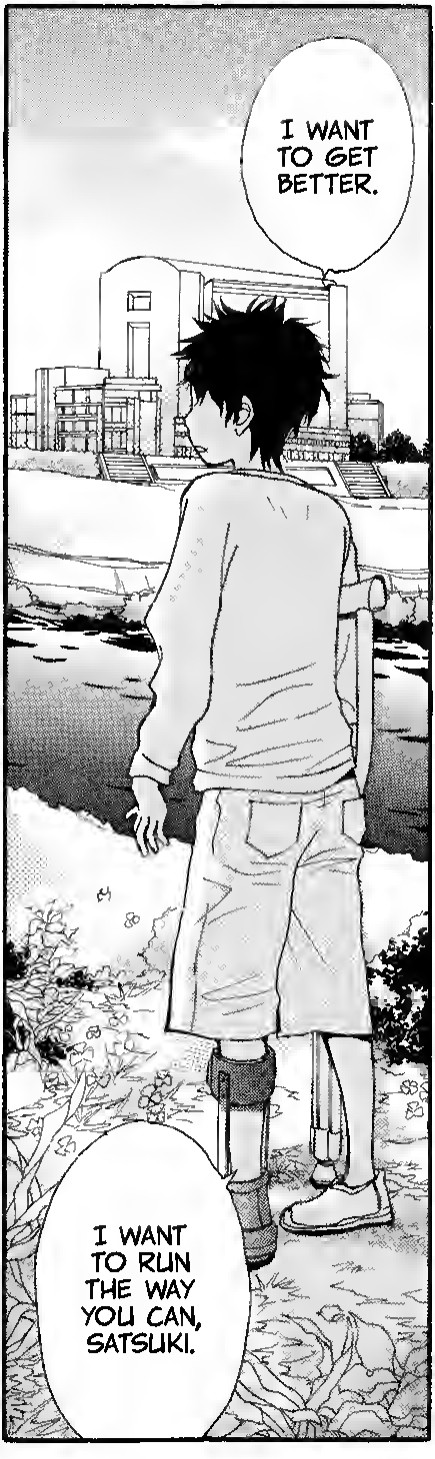

THAT HAS TO BE A LIE! THERE'S NO WAY DOING THAT'D MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE!
WHAT GAAR-BAGE!
AND ANY WISH'LL COME TRUE... IT SAYS.
HA HA HA HA
OH WOOW! SCARYYY!
BOYS DON'T BELONG OVER HERE!
SHUT UP!!
FOUR-LEAF CLOVER WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY.
I MEAN, MY MOM SAYS FINDING EVEN ONE
I THINK IT'LL WORK.
If I had to give him a label,
I'd say Ryuu was an optimist.
REALLY?!

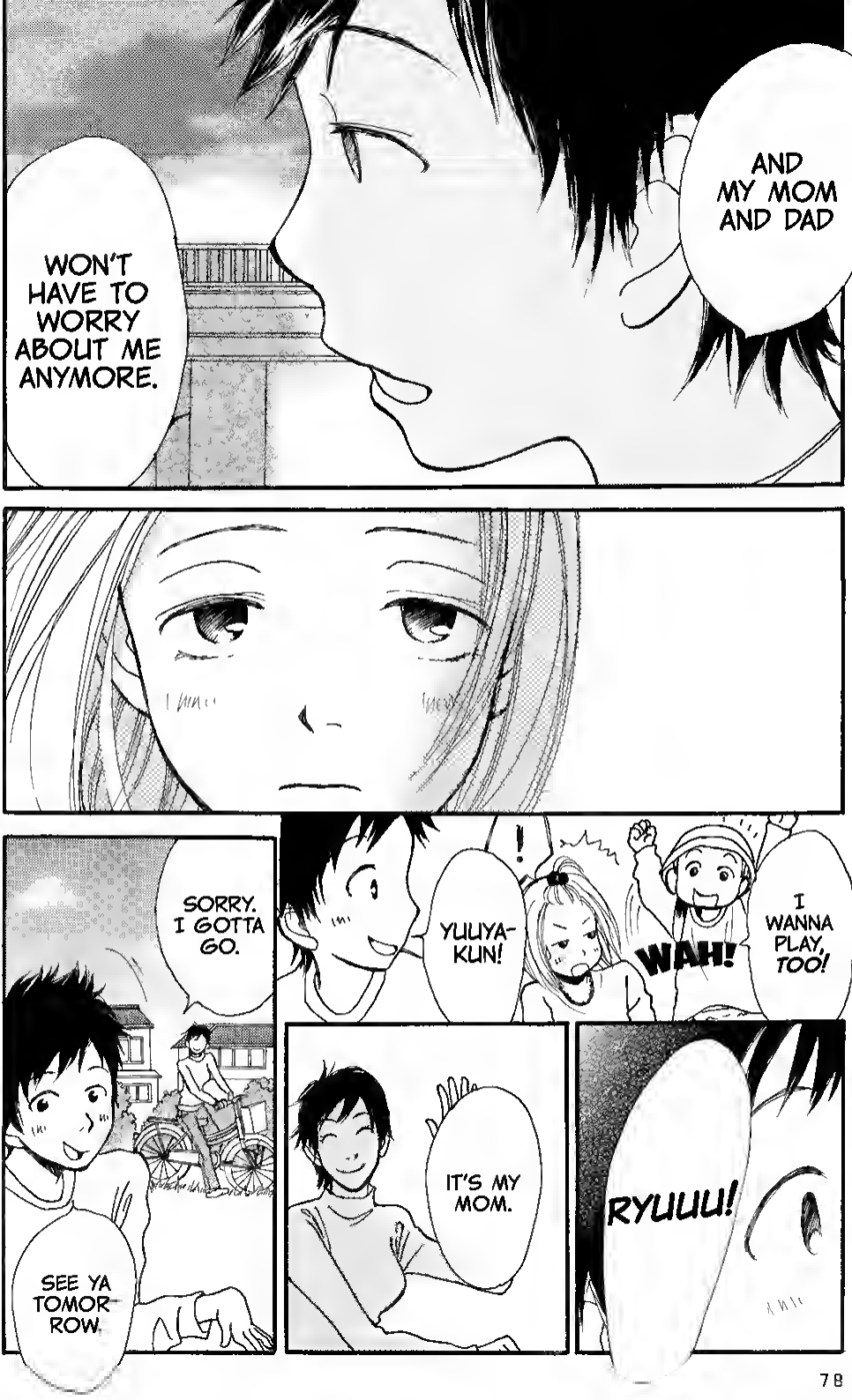

CAN'T SEEM TO FIND ANY...
Probably far, far more than I was.
HEY. THERE'S NOTHING HERE. LET'S JUST GO HOME.
And good luck charms are prolly just junk anyway.
JUST THREE-LEAF CLOVERS.
YOU LISTENING OVER THERE?!
YEAH...
ひょこ…
YOU KNOW...
YUUYA.
AH,
HEYA SIS!

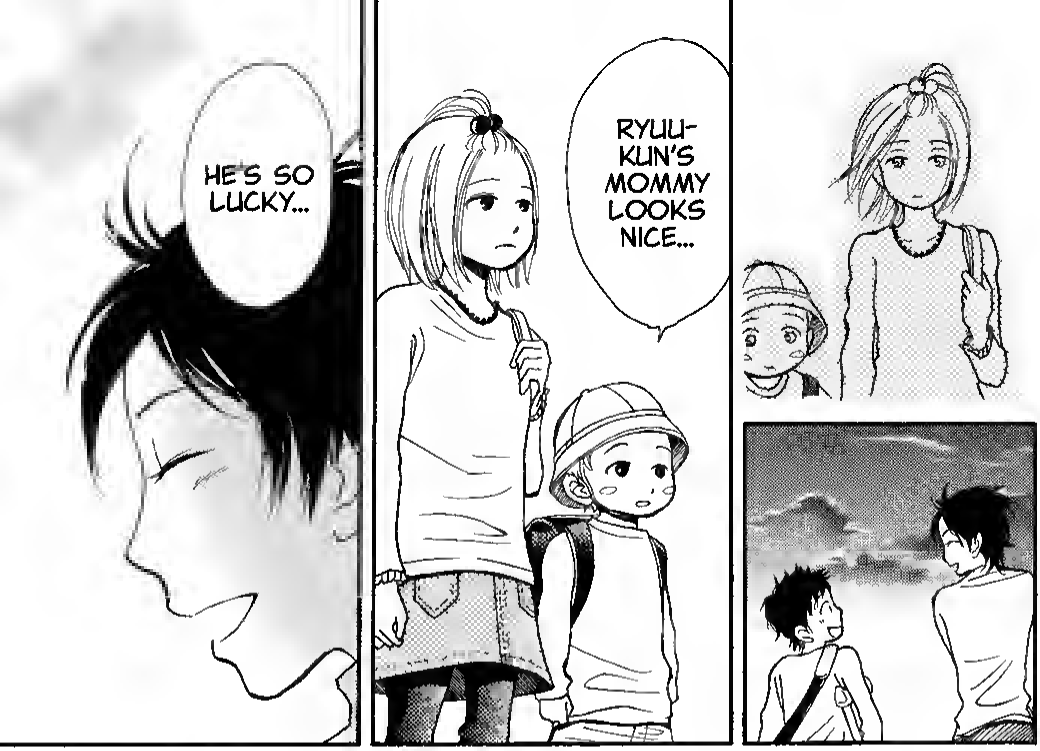



IF I GET BETTER,
Heya ..... suuuuu!

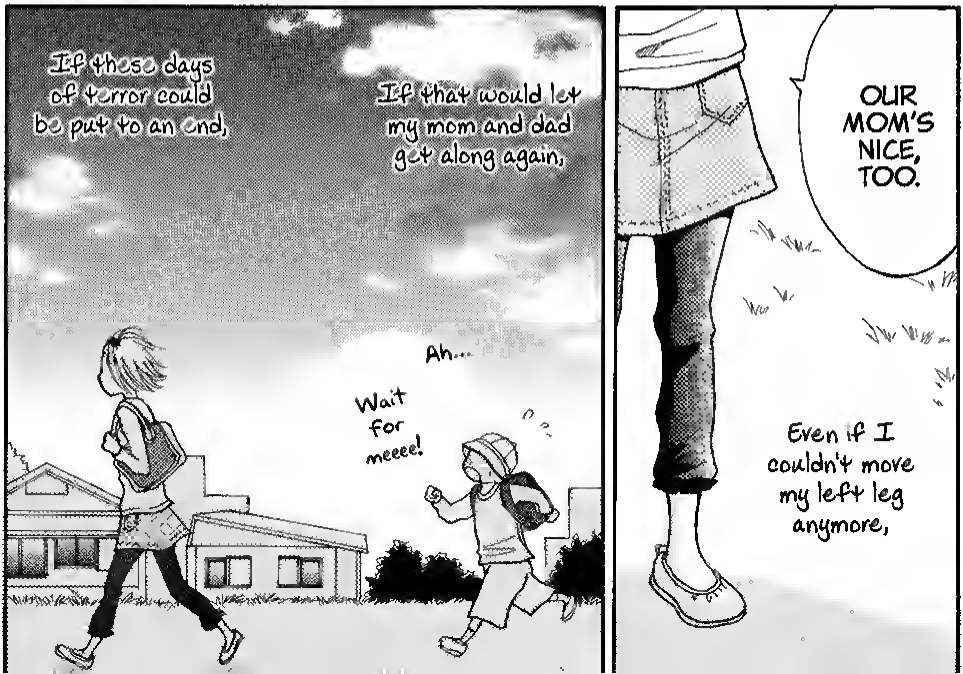
THOSE GUYS FROM NORTH WON'T MAKE FUN OF ME.
AND I'LL BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ALL BY MYSELF.


I WANT TO GET BETTER.
I WANT TO RUN THE WAY YOU CAN, SATSUKI.


AND MY MOM AND DAD
WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME ANYMORE.
I WANNA PLAY, TOO!
WAH!
YUUYA-KUN!
!
SORRY. I GOTTA GO.
IT'S MY MOM.
RYUUU!
SEE YA TOMOR-ROW.



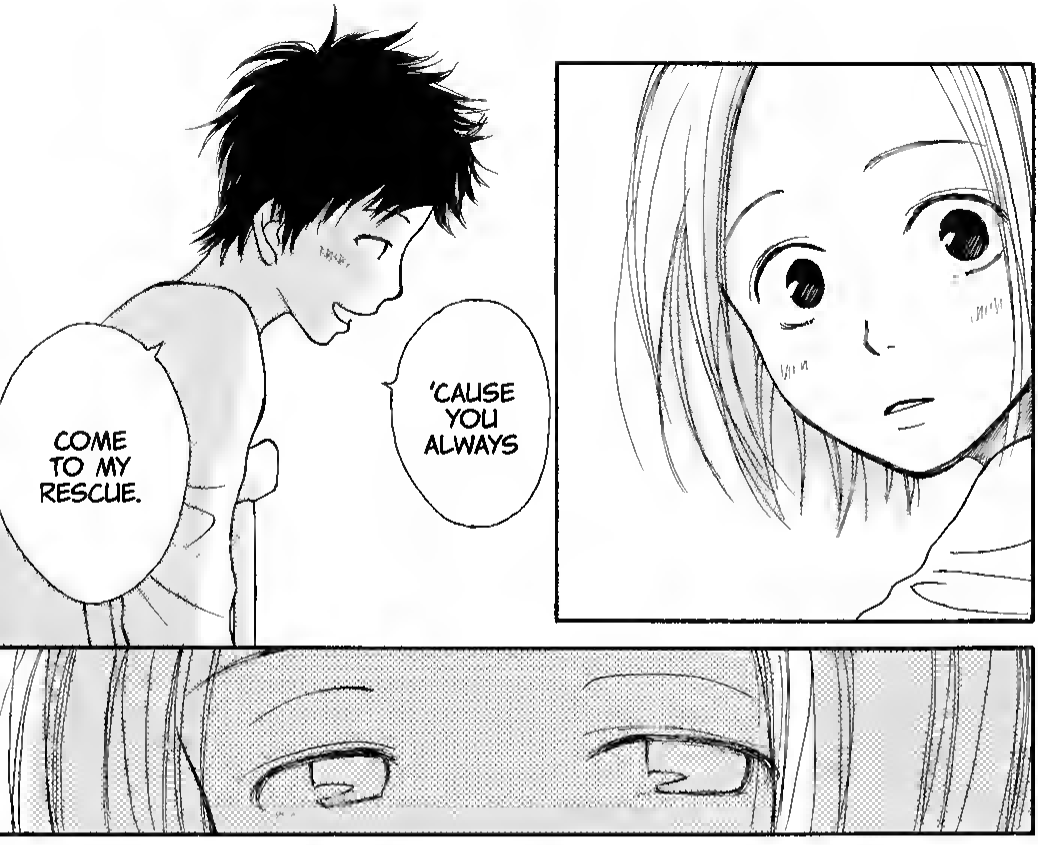
Even if I couldn't move my left arm anymore,


If these days of terror could be put to an end,
If that would let my mom and dad get along again,
Ah...
Wait for meeee!
OUR MOM'S NICE, TOO.
Even if I couldn't move my left leg anymore,

I never gave a second thought
To the depths of Ryuu's feelings.
I thought that I wouldn't mind living that way
Wait up!!
SNIP
SNIP
CUTTING UP YOUR FATHER'S CLOTHES.
WHAT AM I...
MOM...
SNIP
SNIP
WHAT ARE YOU... DOING?

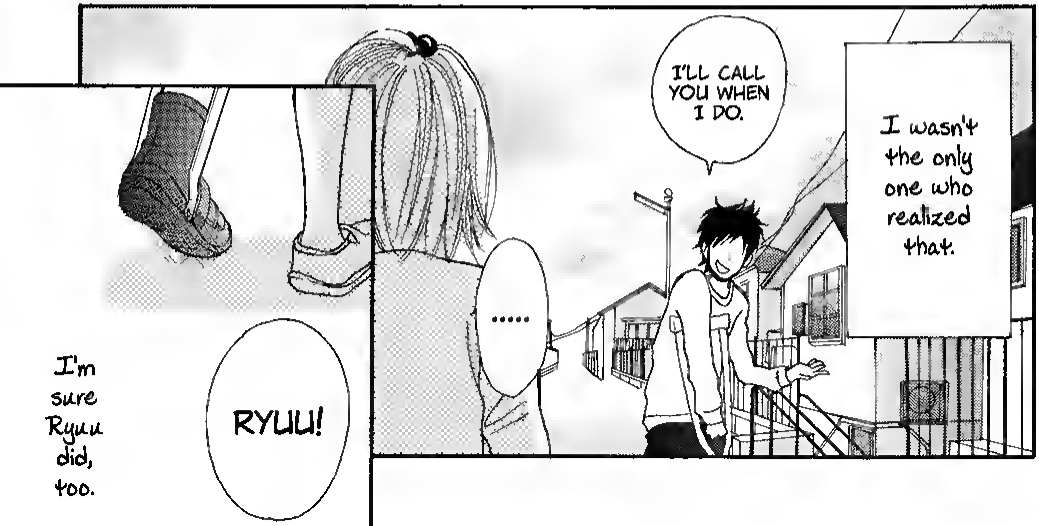
MOM...
IF YOU KEEP THAT UP, YOU AND DAD WILL HAVE ANOTHER FIGHT!
MOM, YOU HAVE TO STOP...
STOP!
PLEASE, MOM!
SHUT YOUR DAMN MOUTH!
YOU'RE GONNA ORDER ME AROUND NOW, TOO?!

What should I do...
.....
What should I do now?
If this keeps up,
She'll fall to pieces.
SATSUKI-CHAN,
WHEN I FIND THOSE FOUR-LEAF CLOVERS,
I'LL GIVE 'EM ALL TO YOU.

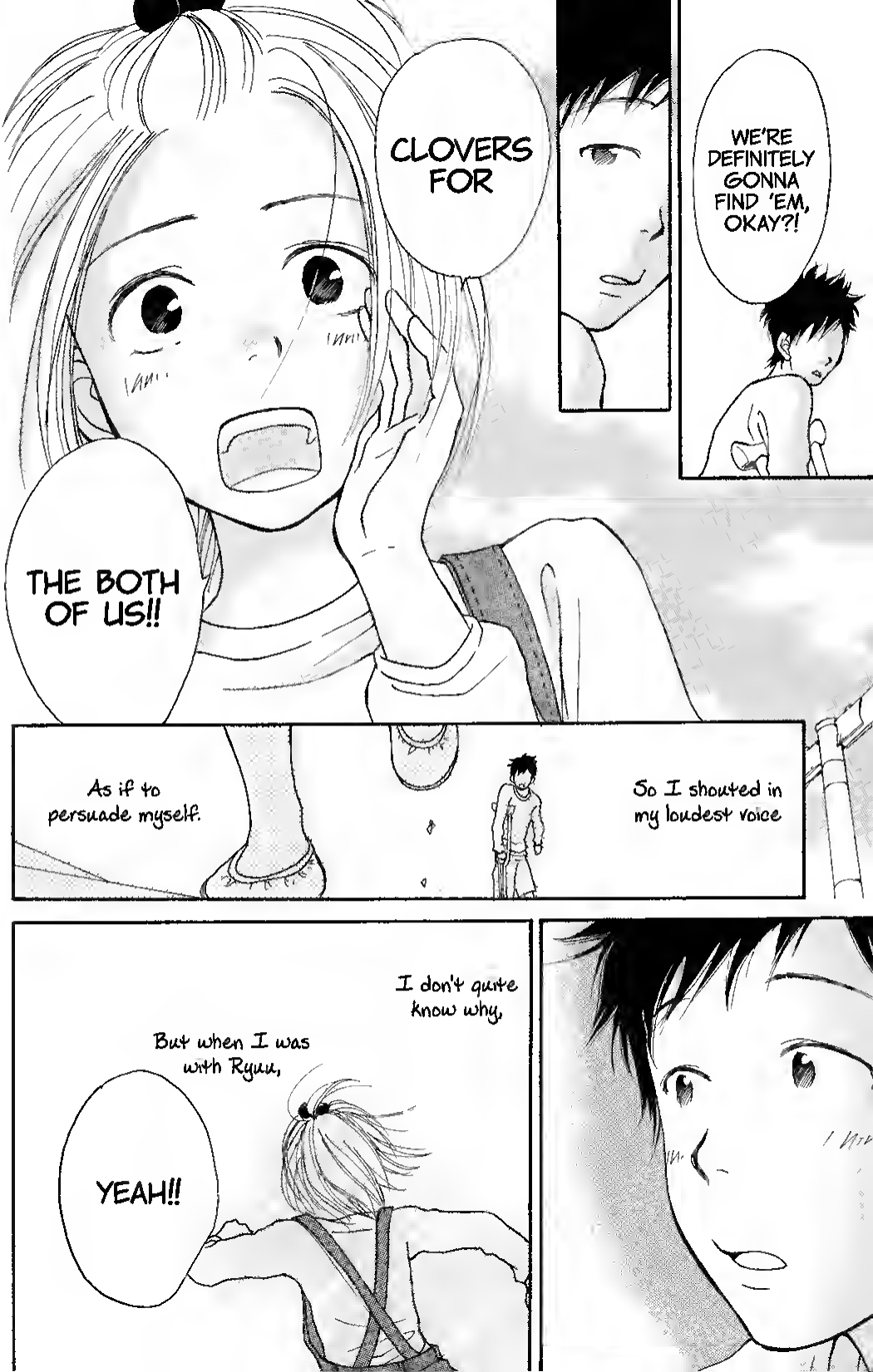


Just finding something

Isn't enough to make a wish come true.

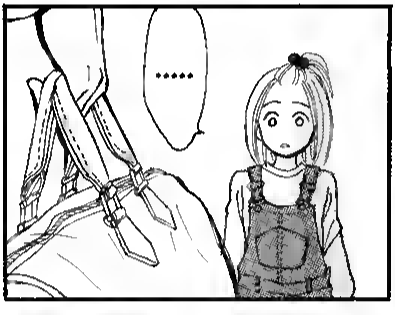


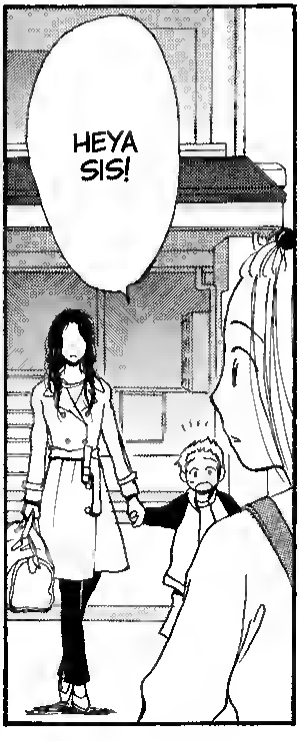
I'm sure Ryuu did, too.

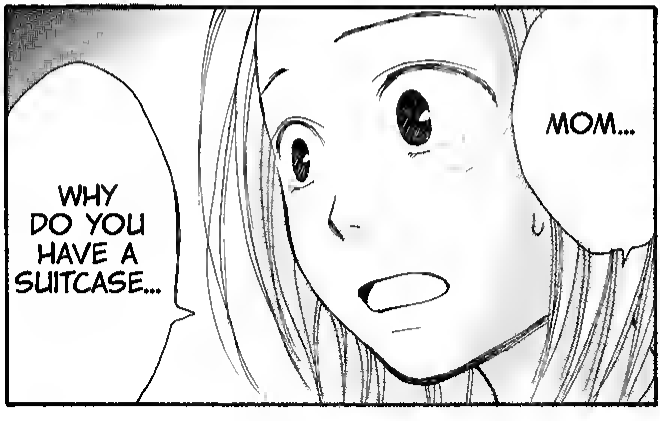

CLOVERS FOR
THE BOTH OF US!!
WE'RE DEFINITELY GONNA FIND 'EM, OKAY?!
As if to persuade myself.
So I shouted in my loudest voice
I don't quite know why,
But when I was with Ryuu,
YEAH!!

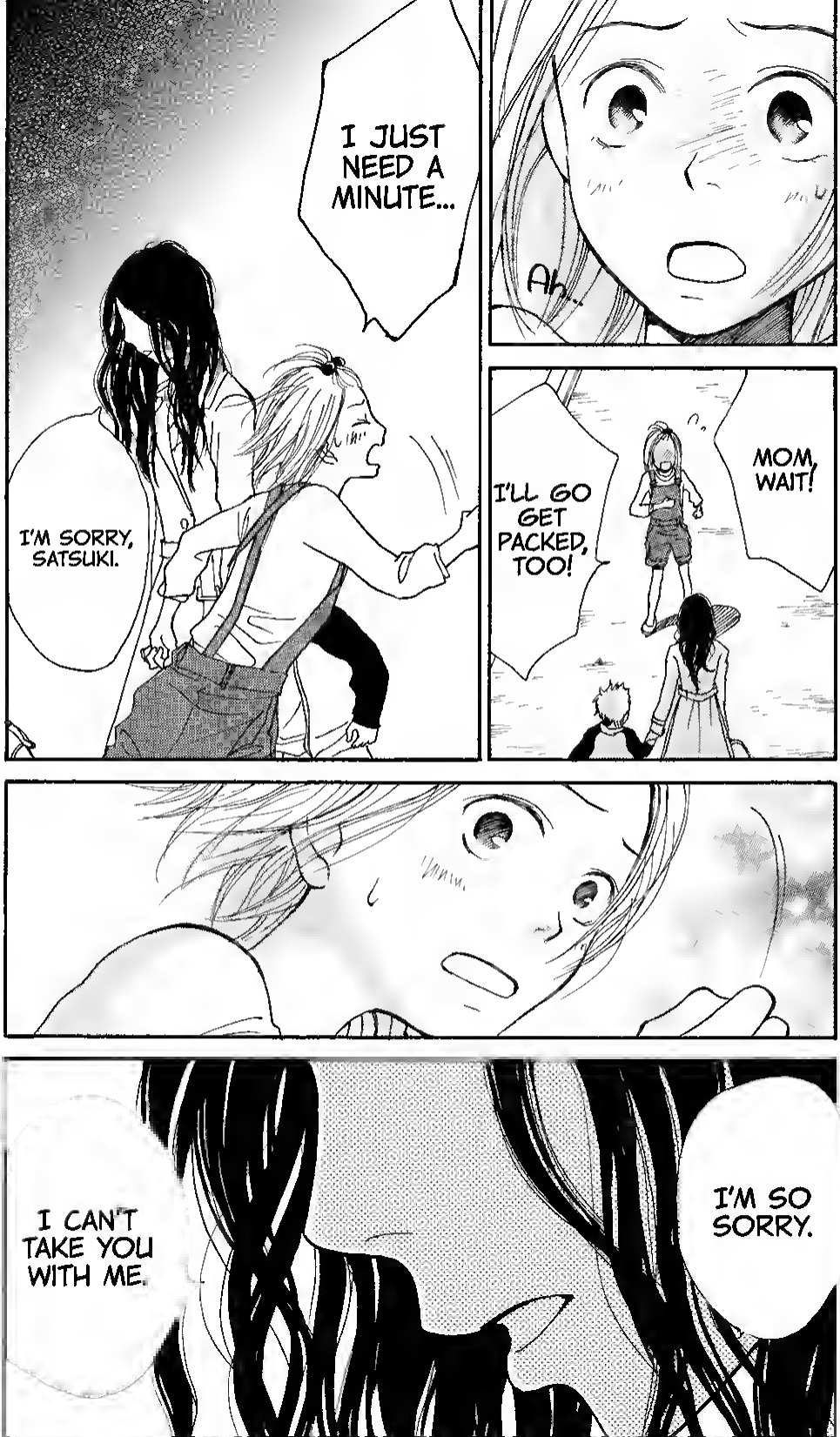
Even my faintest hopes

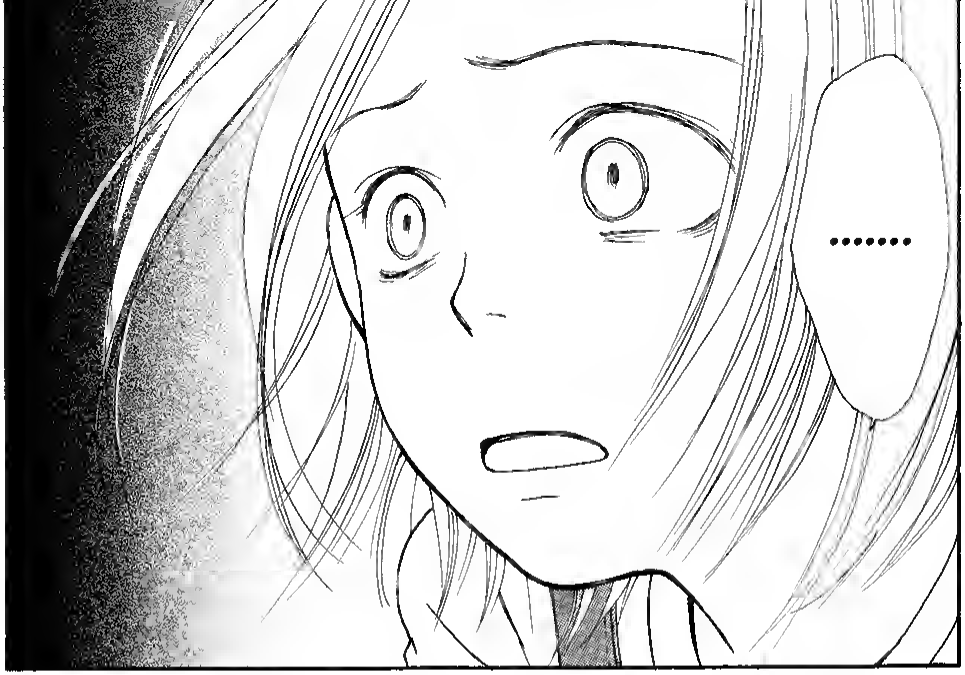
Felt like they could turn into
the grandest dreams.








I JUST NEED A MINUTE...
I'M SORRY, SATSUKI.
Ah...
MOM, WAIT!
I'LL GO GET PACKED, TOO!
I CAN'T TAKE YOU WITH ME.
I'M SO SORRY.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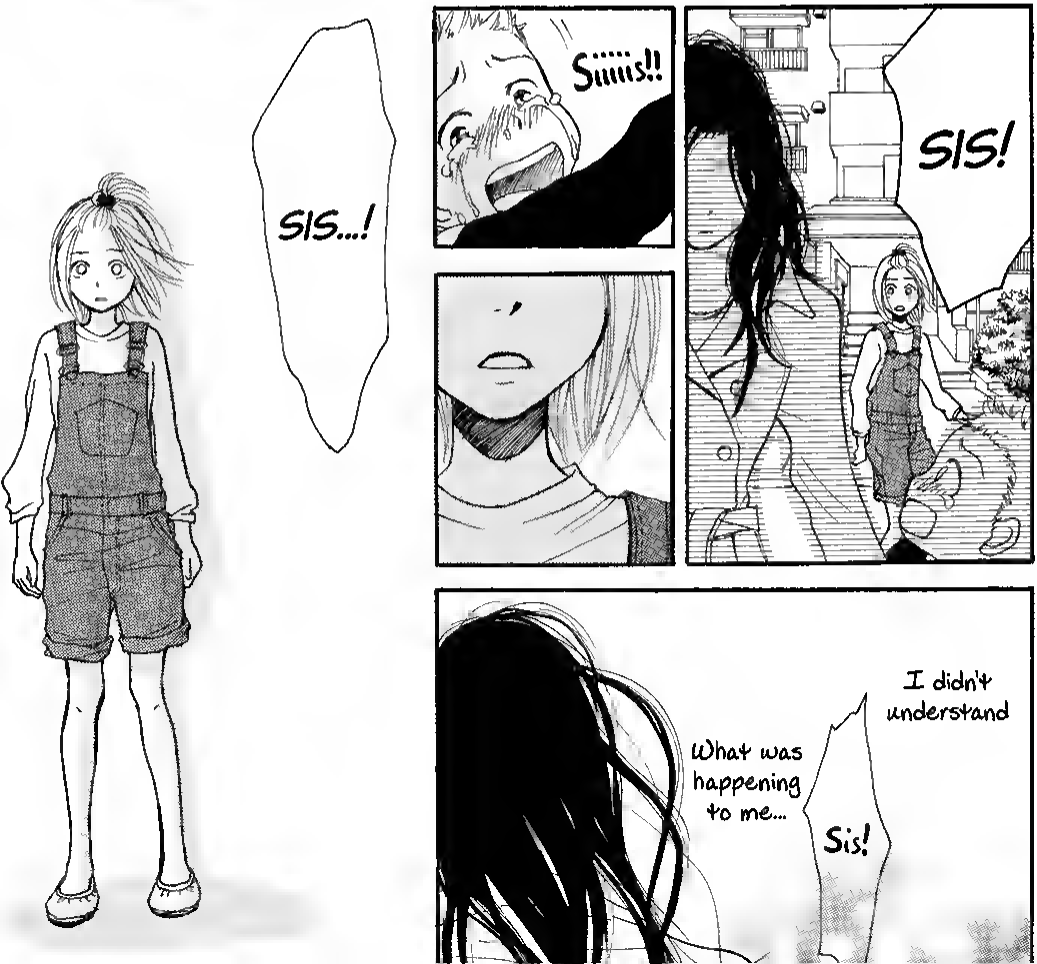
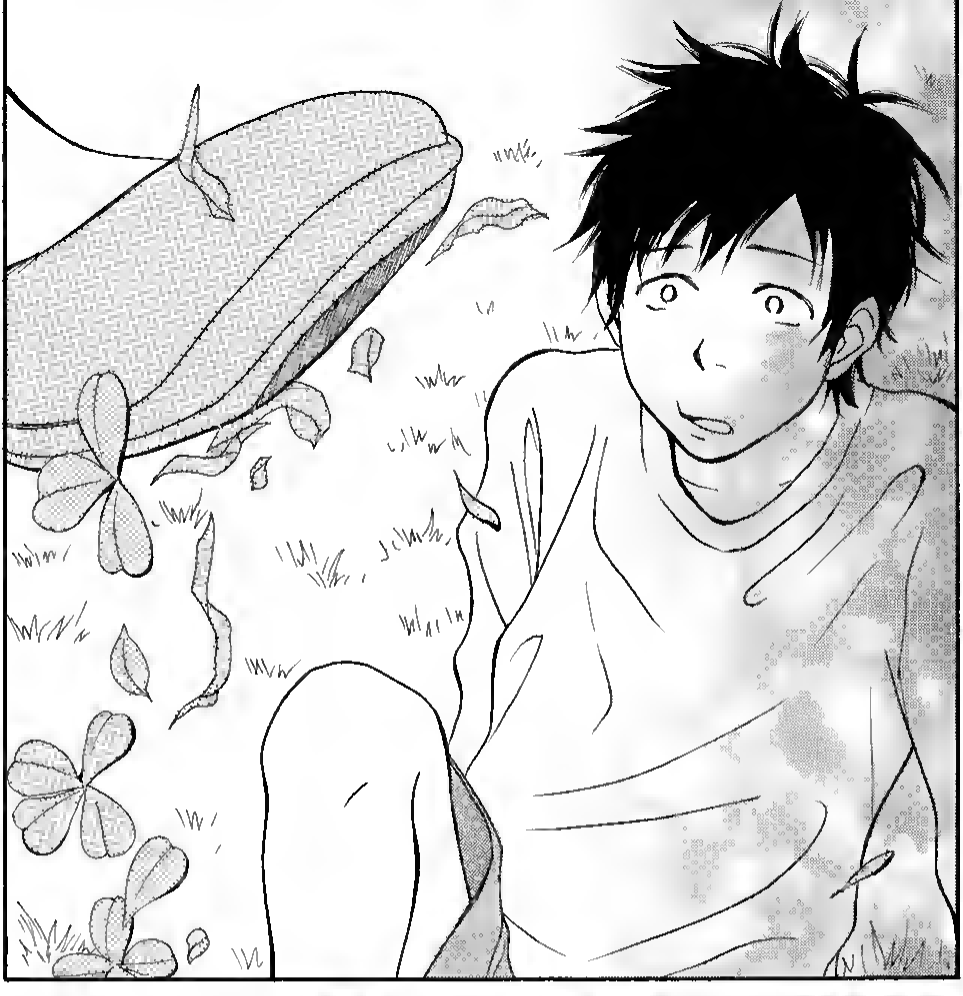
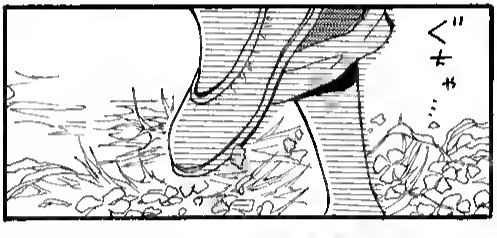

Sis...!
Suuuis!!
SIS!
I didn't understand
What was happening to me...
Sis!

That's right...
It's all a dream...
This has to be a bad dream.
SEE? RIGHT OVER THERE!
Just a bad dream.
IN THAT CLUMP OF BUSHES.
I BET THERE ARE TONS OF FOUR-LEAF CLOVERS
A BAD dream.
SATSUKI-CHAN?
HEY, WANNA GO CALL YUUYA, TOO?
I'M SURE HE'LL BE REAL EXCI...

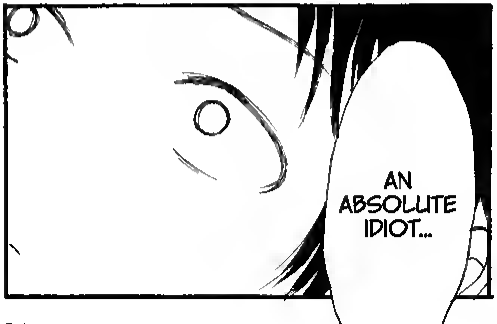
.....
A bad...
SA-TSUKI-CHAN!
!
STOP!

STO-
YOU HAVE TO STOP...

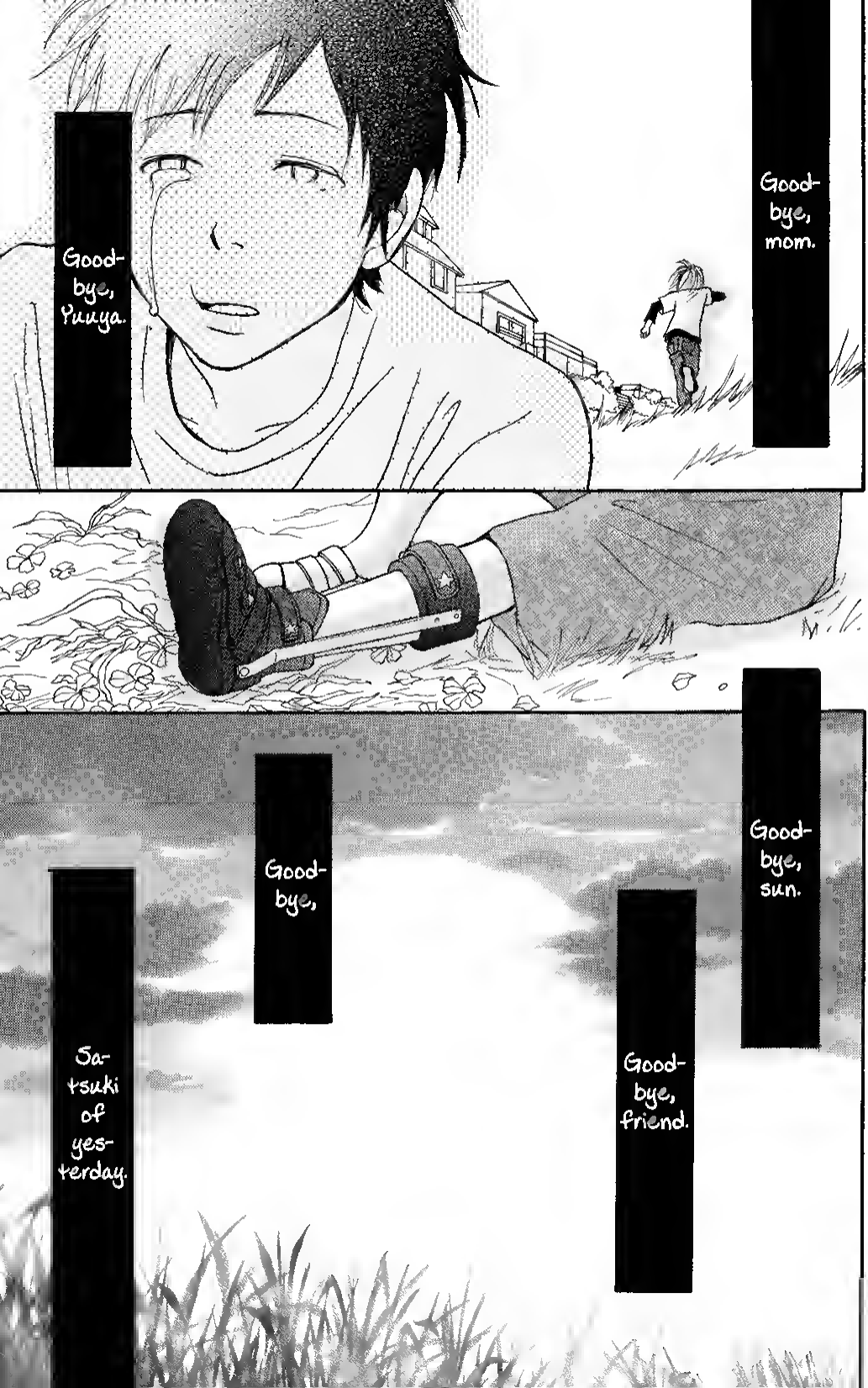



くそ…

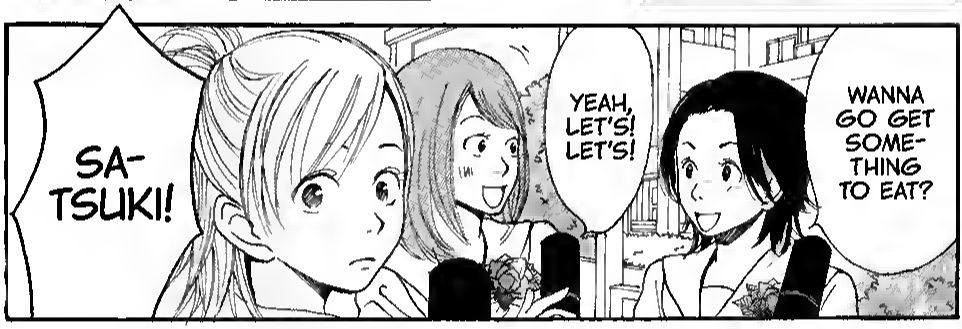
Haaa...
Haaa


AN ABSOLUTE IDIOT...

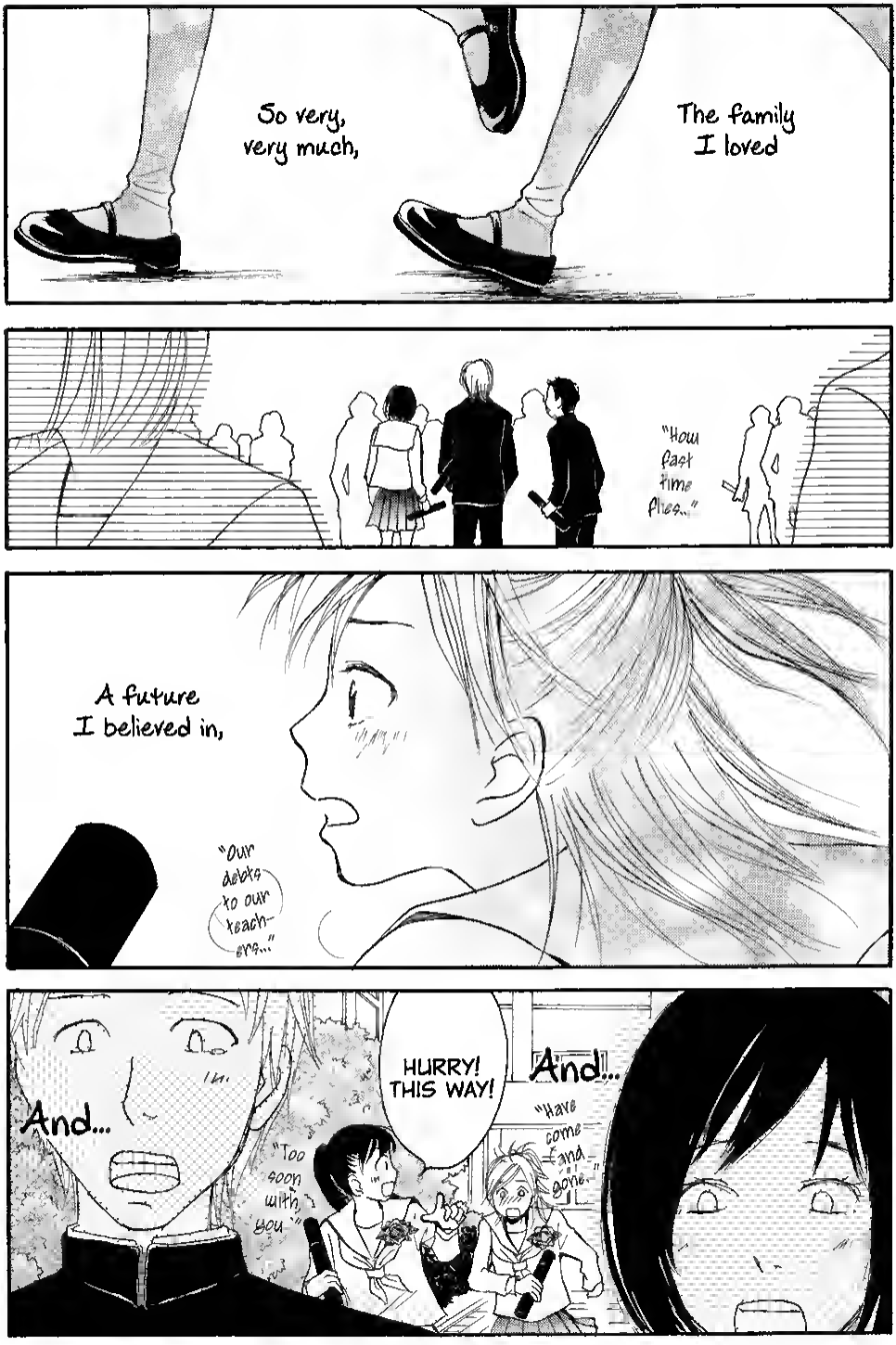
THIS COULD MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE.
NO WAY ON EARTH
THERE'S NO WAY-
Haa...
Haa


Good-bye, Yuuya.
Good-bye, mom.
Good-bye, sun.
Good-bye,
Good-bye, friend.
Sa-tsuki of yes-terday.

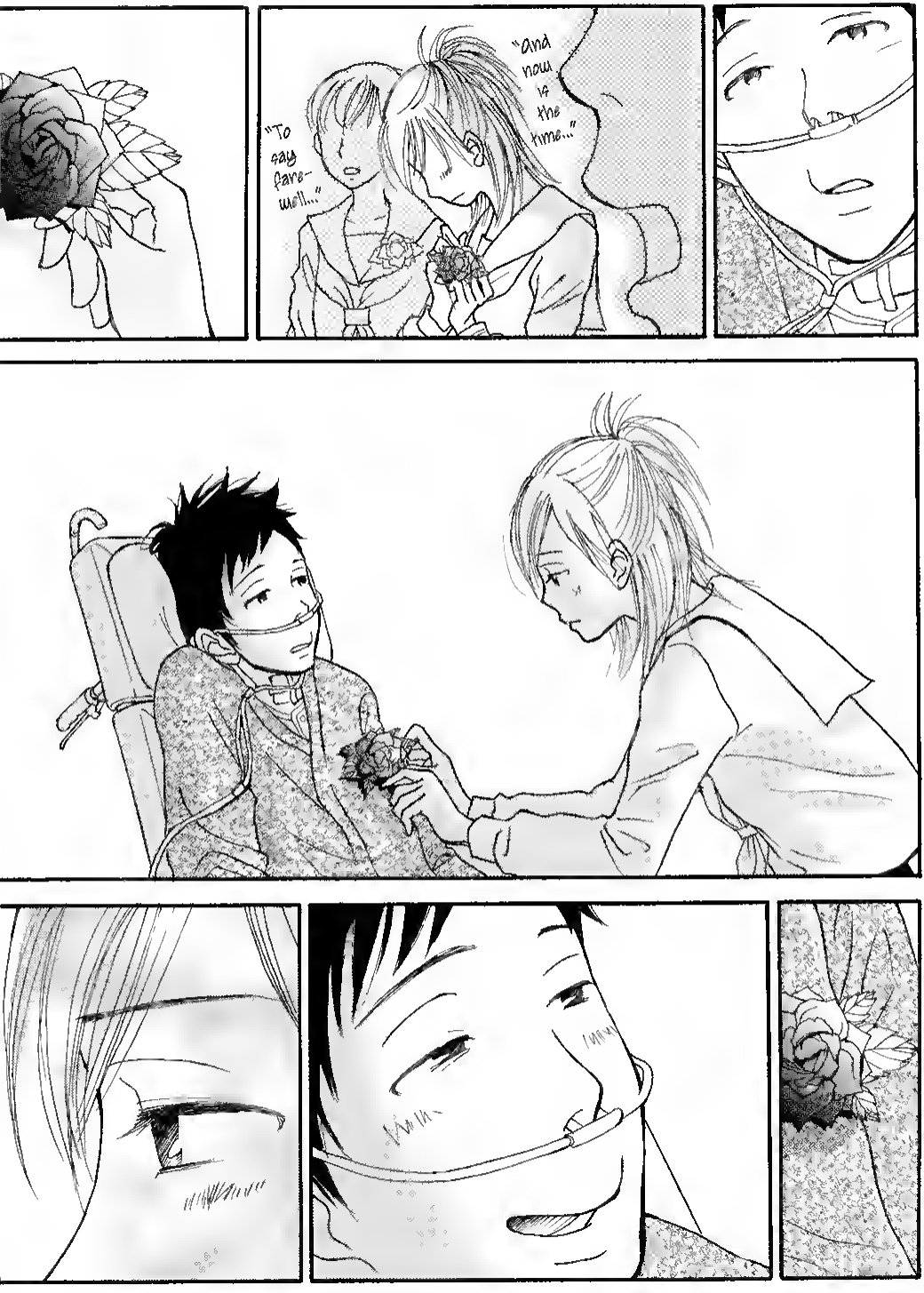
In the summer of our second year,
West Municipal Middle School Graduation Ceremony
I heard his condition worsened and he was moved to a hospital.
When we entered middle school, Ryuu and I were assigned to different classes.
From that day on,
A distance grew between us.

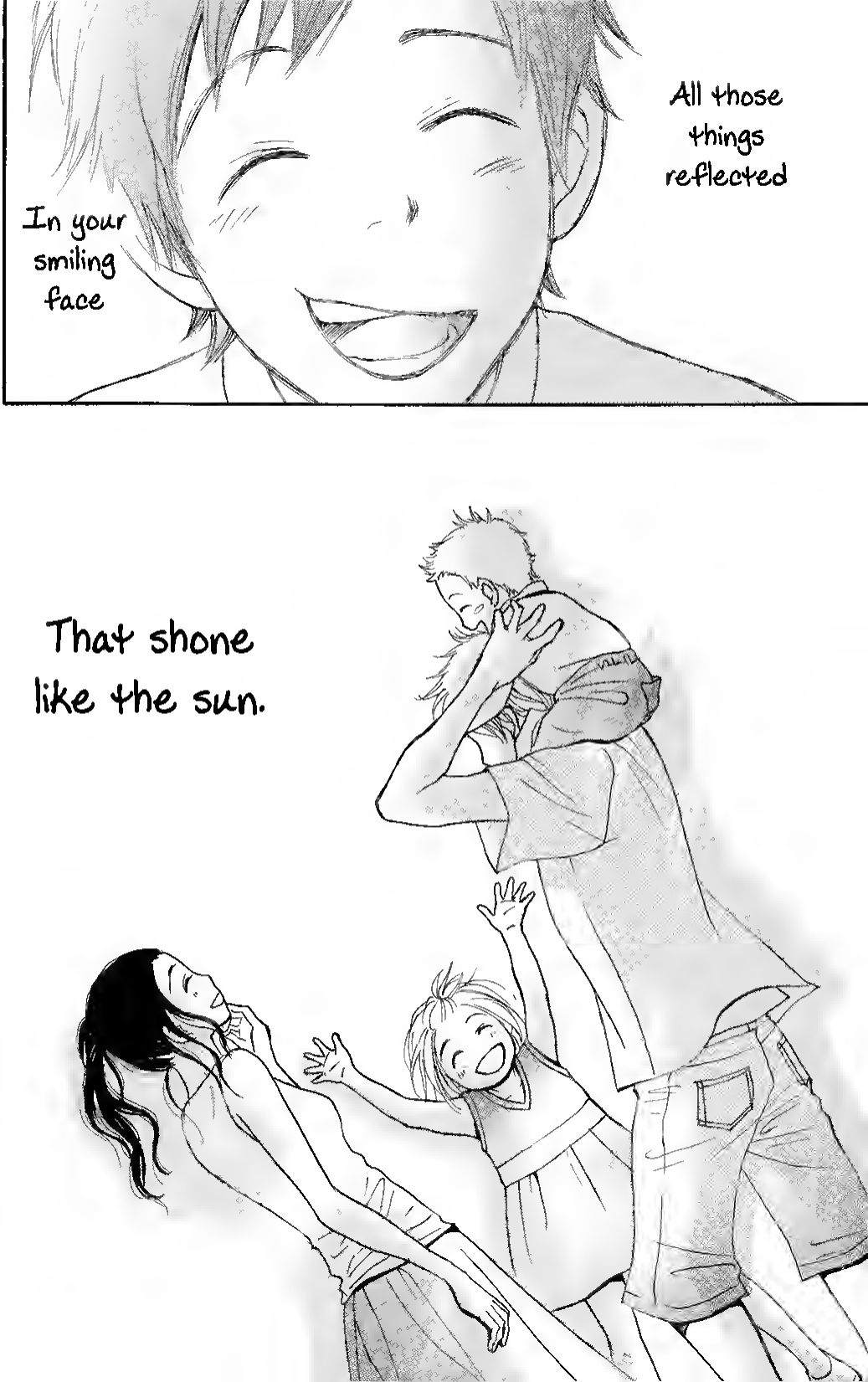

SA-TSUKI!
YEAH, LET'S! LET'S!
WANNA GO GET SOME-THING TO EAT?

I had lost so many things by then.
RYUU CAME TO SCHOOL!
WAH!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!


So very, very much,
The family I loved
"How fast time flies..."
A future I believed in,
"Our debts to our teachers..."
And...
HURRY! THIS WAY!
"Too soon with you."
"Have come and gone."
And!...

The fun times
I had with Ryuu.

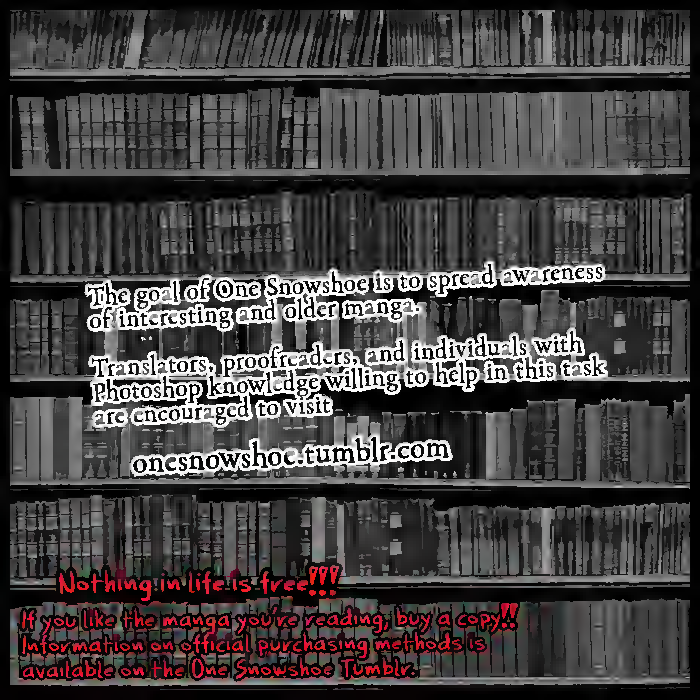

"To say farewell..."
"And now is the time..."


All those things reflected
In your smiling face
That shone like the sun.

Aogeba Totoshi

The text in quotations on pages 95-97 is *Aogeba Totoshi* (仰げば尊し), a song of gratitude for education traditionally sung at most Japanese graduation ceremonies. The selection here utilizes the translation of Professor Ronald Loftus of Willamette University (http://willamette.edu/~rloftus/aogeba.html)

How fast time flies. I cannot believe how quickly the moments have passed, and how deeply indebted we feel to our teachers	仰げば　尊し　我が師の恩
The precious years have come and gone, too soon, here with you in our "garden of learning"	教（おしえ）の庭にも　はや幾年（いくとせ）
We have learned from you the right way to do what must be done	思えば　いと疾（と）し　この年月（としつき）
And now is the time to say farewell with an eternally grateful heart	今こそ　別れめ　いざさらば
How close and deep our ties have become	互（たがい）に睦（むつみ）し　日ごろの恩
I will always remember your teaching and carry your wisdom throughout my life	別（わか）るる後（のち）にも　やよ　忘るな
And I will always throw out my chest and keep my head held high	身を立て　名をあげ　やよ　励めよ
Now is the time to say farewell with an eternally grateful heart	今こそ　別れめ　いざさらば
How hard I worked in the classroom from dawn to dusk with you	朝夕　馴（な）れにし　学びの窓
The season when the fireflies sparkled and the season when the snow piled high	蛍の灯火（ともしび）　積む白雪（しらゆき）
And I will never forget the wonderful things I learned from you	忘るる　間（ま）そなき　ゆく年月
Now is the time to say farewell with an eternally grateful heart	今こそ　別れめ　いざさらば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